

INSPIRE OUR YOUTH. EMPOWER THEIR FUTURE.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Office of Youth Affairs

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT 2023



CONTACT INFORMATION

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WHO WE ARE

ADMIN

Delbert T. Pua
Special Assistant

Monissa I. Blas
Youth Affairs Representative

Keolani Rios
Administrative Specialist II

Edmond H. Borja
Community Relations Coordinator

OPERATIONS

Estevan Cruz
Program Coordinator

Evelyn Hermosilla
Youth Community Assistant

Benster Aldan
Youth Community Assistant

Arman I. Rony
Ground Maintenance

MISSION

The Office of Youth Affairs works to develop comprehensive youth development plans and policies, develop and offer programs and services for youth, and most importantly assist in developing the potential of our youth in the CNMI.

VISION

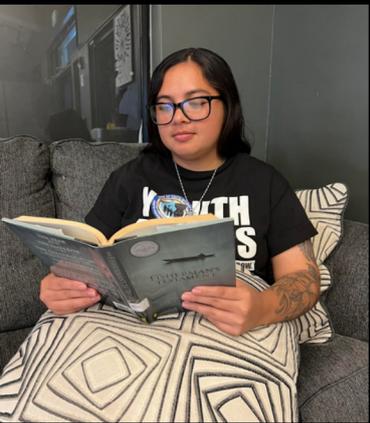
To be actively committed to ensuring youth receive positive development and quality education during school and out of school time; focusing on education, career readiness, health, civic participation, youth talent, leadership, and general life skills to ensure success in their overall growth.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Youth Affairs provides a variety of activities, programs, and planned events offered by various centers within the CNMI. Operated on center sites, all youth centers are being utilized for programming purposes including summer camps, after-school programs, community outreach service activities, clinics, workshops, and other activities.

Since January 2023, the Office of Youth Affairs has provided many enhanced opportunities with key personnel and community partners through volunteer work, commitment, and support by creating strong partnership and collaboration with youth-serving agencies. These achievements continue to provide progress through these services.

- Putting youth first by providing them with the space and opportunity to explore their values, beliefs, ideas, and issues to achieve their full potential
- Recognize and celebrate youth achievement during their engagement with our services
- Offering flexibility through a range of engagement primarily focused around group work facilitation but also one to one work where appropriate
- Providing youth safe spaces and activities to explore their identity, experience decision making, increase their confidence, develop interpersonal skills and think through the consequences of their actions
- Promoting personal and social development and enable them to have a voice, influence and place in their community and society
- Building youth resilience and character and giving them confidence and life skills they need to live, learn, work, and achieve
- Continued partnership and collaboration with youth-serving agencies to best support youth experiencing challenges



FINANCES

PERSONNEL

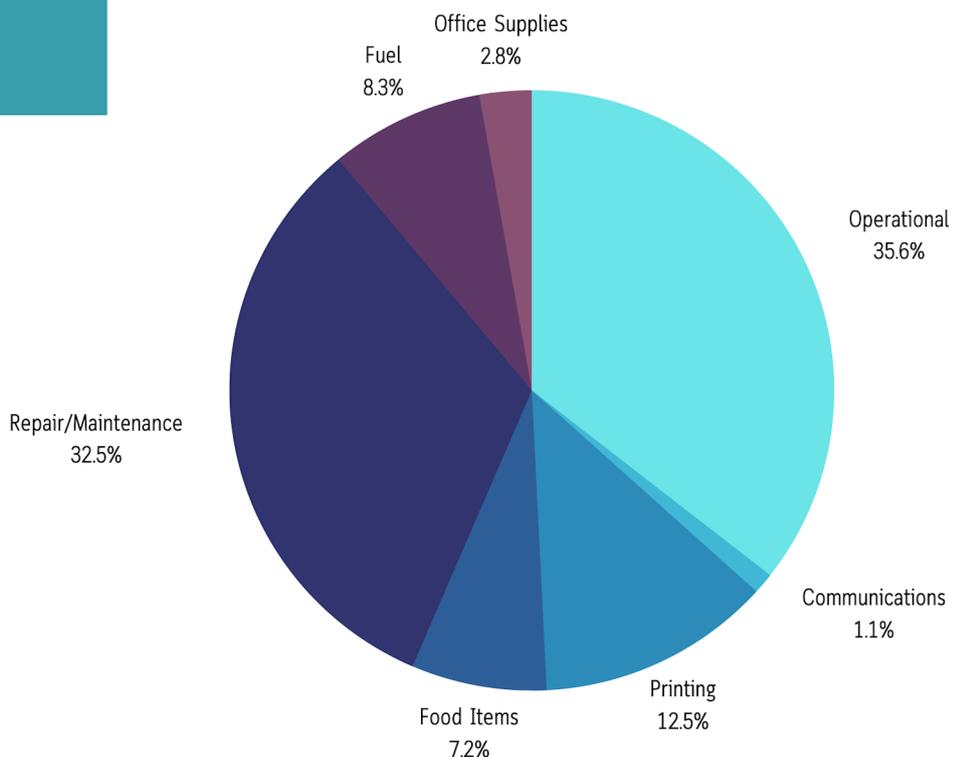
80%

Personnel funded under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) were released on March 2023 and May 2023

8 FTE

Personnel remain funded under the PL 23-09 for FY 2024 Budget.

2023 EXPENSES
JANUARY - PRESENT





WHAT'S NEXT

CHALLENGES

- Rebuilding existing Youth Centers under the care of OYA
 - Working in collaboration with the Public Assistance Office for youth center renovation projects to include Gualo Rai, San Vicente, and Koblerville.
 - Alternate Project Awarded: \$290,000.00
- Personnel
 - Understaffed for all OYA youth center coverage
- Lack of Youth Federal Funding Opportunities
 - Inadequate financial sustainability and support for continuous funding into FY 2024

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024

1. Provide access to youth services for all children and youth in places and spaces that are accessible, modern, attractive, and well-resourced.
2. Develop effective partnership with providers, services, and organizations that work with youth to enhance youth services.
3. Provide targeted interventions and volunteer youth work in our community to engage children and youth and support them to access youth services.
4. Advocate for the talents of our youth and encourage them to be aspirational and fulfill their ambitions and creative potential.
5. Develop, encourage, and engage youth to actively participate and contribute to our community.